



USAID | JORDAN

Democracy & Governance Sector PROJECT PROFILE

April 2012



An activist with visual disabilities works on the blog of the TAKAFO disability rights and election campaign. Visit www.takafo.org for more information.

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Implemented by: Academy for Educational Development (AED)

Duration: 2008 – 2013

Total Funding: \$18 million

Beneficiaries: Civil society organizations, activists, Government of Jordan, the media

Geographic Coverage: Nationwide

Civil Society Program

BACKGROUND

The USAID Civil Society Program (CSP) aims at cultivating a strong and vibrant civil society in Jordan through a supportive enabling environment and an engaged citizenry. CSP works with civil society, government and media to contribute to the strengthening and sustainability of Jordan's civil society through consultative research, capacity building, small grants and improved civil society-government communications.

The program is strategic yet flexible, responsive yet determined. This approach enables CSP to support new ideas and activities which emerge in response to ongoing consultations with the civil society sector. CSP integrates Jordanian, regional, and international resources to ensure that it builds on and complements existing efforts, while implementing creative and thoughtful activities.

CSP's diverse programming seeks to achieve three major results:

1. Civil society is actively engaged as a key player in the overall reform process: Strengthening civil society's role in advocating for social change requires a better understanding among members of civil society organizations (CSOs) and the general public of the definition, purpose and importance of civil society.
2. CSOs at all levels are more professional, capable, strategic, collaborative, and sustainable: The program facilitates professional development and strengthens the capacity, credibility, and sustainability of CSOs at various levels. In addition to providing small grants, CSP provides opportunities for mentoring between national and local CSOs and has launched innovative training and technical assistance approaches that enhance and utilize the available resources from within Jordan's non-profit sector.
3. A more enabling environment for civil society: CSP supports relevant government entities' efforts to establish a sound legal and regulatory framework for CSOs through creation of a customized data management system, communications outreach on the Law on Societies 2008/09, training of government employees and CSOs on the content and impact of the law and its regulations, as well as legal technical assistance supporting the Registrar Council and Fund for Societies.

ACTIVITIES

- Providing technical assistance and grants to CSO's to enhance their ability to represent their constituencies by strengthening



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Young filmmakers edit documentaries on NGOs in Jordan, as part of a Documentary Advocacy Shorts program, held in conjunction with the Royal Film Commission.

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internal systems, assessing the most critical needs of local populations and translating them into effective programs and advocacy, and improving communication with stakeholders

- Creating a core team of specialized trainers in the area of non-governmental organization (NGO) capacity building, including strategic planning, advocacy, communications, monitoring and evaluation, human resources and financial management
- Engaging the Government of Jordan and CSOs in dialogue and opportunities to advance Jordan's development goals at the local and national level
- Focusing on disability rights advocacy as a model for civic participation, coalition building, legal reform, and media outreach
- Supporting CSO outreach and counseling on violence against women to women in disadvantaged neighborhoods

PROGRESS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Engaged more than 150 CSOs in a diverse portfolio of programs, grants and technical assistance, with 84% engaged in one or more projects
- Created a network of specialized trainers through the Master Advocacy Fellowships, Certification of Communication Trainers and Partners in NGO Excellence programs to build civil society capacity nationwide
- Coordinated the effort between the Ministry of Social Development and other relevant ministries to successfully survey over 1,552 NGOs and established the first phase of the Automation Information System for NGO data management across the Government of Jordan
- Supported the TAKAFO' disability rights coalition to advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities to exercise their right to vote during the November 2010 parliamentary elections
- Supported civil society coalition in developing civil society report on Jordanian compliance with the CRPD as a basis for disability rights advocacy

PARTNERS

- Academy for Educational Development
- Ministry of Social Development
- Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities